Remarks

The Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a chemically modified siRNA double stranded short interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA) molecule comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein: each strand of said siRNA molecule is about 18-27 nucleotides in length; the antisense strand of said siRNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a human placental growth factor-1 (PGF-1) nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:257; and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and further comprises a portion of said PGF-1 sequence of about 18 to 27 nucleotides; and said siRNA molecule comprises about 100% modification of nucleotide positions in one or both strands of said siRNA." Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia,* pages 1, 8-9, 12-13, 31, and 36-39, Figures 4-5, and Tables III and IV.

Claims 3, 13-21, 30 and 33 have been amended to recite the term "siRNA" rather than siNA. Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 1, 8, and 63-65 and throughout the specification. Claims 13-21 and 30 have been amended to recite the term "strand" instead of region. Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 63, 66, 71, and 74 and throughout the specification. Claims 3, 13-15, and 18-20 have been amended to recite the phrase "one or more" ribonucleotides instead of ribonucleotides. Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 102, 103, 114, and 127 and throughout the specification. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to recite the phrase "present in." Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 12-18 and throughout the specification. Claims 21 and 30 have been amended to recite the term "terminal." Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 32-34, and 77 and throughout the specification. Claim 30 has been amended to recite "the siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group." Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 27, 32-33, 44-45, 66 and 81 and throughout the specification. Claim 33 has been amended to recite "a composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent." Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, pages 22, 53, 97, and 99-102 and throughout the specification. Claims 2, 4-12, 22-29, 31-32, and 34-36 have been canceled with this amendment without prejudice.

Amendments to the claims are made without prejudice and do not constitute amendments to overcome any prior art or other statutory rejections and are fully supported by the specification as filed. Additionally, these amendments are not an admission regarding the patentability of subject matter of the canceled or amended claims and should not be so construed. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the previously filed claims in this or in any other appropriate patent application. The amendments add no new matter and applicants respectfully request their entry.

The Sequence Listing

Applicants have enclosed a new sequence listing and request its entry in place of the previously entered sequence listing. The sequence listing adds SEQ ID NO: 257. SEQ ID NO: 257 represents GenBank entry NM_002632 (see pages 141, 145). The version of NM_002632 appearing in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO: 257 appeared in GenBank on October 31, 2000 and is included in the U.S. Provisional patent application No. 60/363,124 priority application (Table III). The sequence listing adds no new matter and applicants respectfully request its entry.

The Restriction Requirement

The restriction requirement asserts that a restriction is necessary between claim 2 and claim 3 because the claims are allegedly distinct "since they are directed to chemically distinct structural molecules, namely, RNA and DNA double stranded molecules." The Applicants respectfully traverse, as the present application, (along with other co-pending applications), demonstrates that double stranded nucleic acid molecules that lack ribonucleotides are capable of mediating RNA interference similar to double stranded nucleic acid molecules that have ribonucleotides. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Claim 2 has been canceled, thus rendering the restriction moot.

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